

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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24 (currently amended): A method of providing information based on a user's technical proficiency ~~comprehension characteristics of a user~~, the method comprising:
receiving data related to ~~one or more comprehension characteristics of the user~~ the user's technical proficiency;
selecting a message from a plurality of messages based upon the received data related to ~~one or more comprehension characteristics~~ the user's technical proficiency, wherein the plurality of messages include a first message that corresponds to a first level of technical proficiency ~~data related to a first set of comprehension characteristics~~ and a second message that corresponds to a second level of technical proficiency ~~data related to a second set of comprehension characteristics~~; and
providing the selected message.

25 (original): The method of claim 24 wherein a first computer provides the message, and wherein the method further comprises transmitting the message to a second computer.

26 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 24, wherein the one or more comprehension characteristics comprise user technical proficiency.~~ The method of claim 24 wherein the selecting further comprises performing the message selection at a client.

27 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~24~~ 26, wherein the method further comprises ~~determining the one or more comprehension characteristics by inferring a level of user technical proficiency based upon the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user.~~

28 (currently amended): The method of claim 24, wherein selecting the message ~~the further comprises selecting the message based on~~ one or more preferred languages of the user.

29 (currently amended): The method of claim 28, ~~wherein the method further comprises~~ comprising inferring the one or more preferred languages of the user. ~~determining the one or more comprehension characteristics by inferring a preferred language of the user based upon the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user.~~

30 (original): The method of claim 24, wherein the message comprises at least one of the following: text, graphics, video, animation, sound and instructions.

B) 31 (currently amended): The method of claim 24, wherein the received data related to the user's technical proficiency ~~one or more comprehension characteristics~~ is provided by the user.

32 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~27~~24, wherein inferring comprises inferring the level of the user's technical proficiency ~~the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics is inferred by a computer~~ based on user activity.

33 (currently amended): The method of claim 24 wherein the receiving of the data related to the user's technical proficiency comprises ~~one or more comprehension characteristics~~ is ~~partially performed by~~ retrieving the data ~~related to one or more comprehension characteristics~~ from a database.

34 (original): The method of claim 25 further comprising receiving an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) indicator at the first computer in response to a user's HTTP request for a URL (Universal Resource Locator) provided by the second computer.

35 (currently amended): An apparatus for providing a message based on a user's technical proficiency ~~comprehension characteristics~~ comprising:

a data receiver arranged and structured so as to receive data related to the user's technical proficiency ~~one or more comprehension characteristics of the user~~;

a data store arranged and structured so as to store a plurality of messages wherein the plurality of messages include a first message that corresponds to a first level of technical proficiency~~data related to a first set of comprehension characteristics~~ and a second message that corresponds to a second level of technical proficiency~~data related to a second set of comprehension characteristics~~; and

a first computer that selects a message from the plurality of messages and provides the selected message.

36 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the first computer includes software used to determine the user's technical proficiency~~one or more comprehension characteristics~~ by inferring a level of user technical proficiency~~based upon the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user.~~

37 (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~method of claim ~~36~~35, wherein inferring comprises inferring the level of the user's technical proficiency based on user activity~~the first computer includes software used to determine the one or more comprehension characteristics by inferring a preferred language of the user based upon the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user.~~

38 (currently amended): An apparatus for providing a message based on a user's technical proficiency~~comprehension characteristics~~, the ~~apparatus~~proxy comprising:

means for receiving an indicator;

means for receiving data relating to the user's technical proficiency~~one or more comprehension characteristics of the user~~;

means for selecting a message from a database storing a plurality of messages wherein the selecting is based on the received indicator and the received data relating to the user's technical proficiency~~one or more comprehension characteristics~~, wherein the plurality of messages include a first message that corresponds to a first level of technical proficiency~~received indicator and first data related to a first set of comprehension characteristics~~ and a second

message that corresponds to ~~the first indicator and second data related to~~ a second level of technical proficiency ~~set of comprehension characteristics~~; and

means for providing the selected message to a computer.

39 (currently amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the one or more comprehension characteristics comprise user technical proficiency. The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the computer is a client computer.~~

40 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the means for selecting the message further comprises means for selecting the message from a plurality of messages based on one or more comprehension characteristics ~~comprise one or more preferred languages~~ of the user.

41 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the data related to the user's technical proficiency ~~one or more comprehension characteristics~~ is provided by the user.

42 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the apparatus further comprises means for inferring the user's technical proficiency ~~data related to one or more comprehension characteristics is inferred by a computer.~~

43 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein ~~the receiving of the data related to the user's technical proficiency comprises one or more comprehension characteristics is partially performed by~~ retrieving the data ~~related to one or more comprehension characteristics from a~~ database.

44 (new): The method of claim 24 wherein selecting a message is performed at an intervening agent between a client computer and a server computer.

45 (new): The method of claim 44 wherein the intervening agent is a proxy server.

46 (new): The method of claim 24 wherein the selected message comprises at least one of a network status indicator, a file status indicator, or an error message.

47 (new): The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the first computer is an intervening agent between a client computer and a server computer.

48 (new): The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the intervening agent is a proxy server.

49 (new): The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the selected message comprises at least one of a network status indicator, a file status indicator, or an error message.

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50 (new): The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the first computer includes software for selecting a message from a plurality of messages based on one or more preferred languages of the user.

51 (new): The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the first computer includes software for inferring the one or more preferred languages of the user.

52 (new): The method of claim 24 wherein the selected message comprises a web page.

53 (new): The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the selected message comprises a web page.

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53 (new): The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the selected message comprises a web page.
